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## Tal'Afar Leaders Launch New Granary

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 Gulf Region North

**TAL'AFAR, Iraq** - City councilman and directors, sheiks, the granary director and its employees officially inaugurated this city's renovated granary in April - a reconstruction renovation project that now adds 75,000 tons of grain storage capacity in northern Iraq.

With security tight, an Iraqi contractor hosted an event that included a photo exhibit reflecting the granary's many renovations, a tour of the main control room, and a demonstration of how trucks download the grain.

"This [reopening] is a hope for the people," said Mohammad Hayder Hussein, the granary director. The Tal'Afar granary has been inoperable since 2003.

The Western Ninewa Province's brigade combat team, 4<sup>th</sup> Calvary Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, was there to help dedicated the sorely-needed facility.

"The granary is empty right now, but reportedly there are shipments of wheat at the port in Basra to supplement the upcoming harvest season," said Capt. Matthew Davis, an engineer from the BCT. "We're trying to encourage the Government of Iraq to get some of that grain up from Basra."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Government of Iraq to help restore the grain marketing infrastructure by renovating this, and a second granary in the Ninewa Province.



The Tal'Afar granary renovation project gives Iraq the capacity to store 75,000 additional tons of grain. The granary along with a second granary facility in the Ninewa Province provides Iraqis with a reliable means to process, store and distribute various grain crops - a step toward restoring Iraq's agriculture productivity. (USACE photo)

Once considered the second largest value sector in the country, agriculture in northern Iraq has taken a nosedive in past years, but renovation of these two facilities provides a reliable means to process, store and distribute various grain crops, a step toward restoring Iraq's agriculture productivity.

According to reports, more than 85 percent of the four million tons of wheat consumed by the Iraqi people annually is imported; creating an economic burden on the country. The storage capacity of the two granaries in Ninewa reduces the amount of import requirements and drives

the agriculture sector to achieve greater efficiency and output, which will gradually ease that burden.

Ninewa is one of 18 provinces in Iraq. Since the time of Iraq's sovereignty in 2004, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division has completed over 3,000 of the original 3,786 projects in the Iraq Reconstruction Program, nationwide.

Throughout Iraq, U.S. government ongoing projects contribute to Iraq's improving quality of life and economic stability—helping provide a foundation for the Iraqi people to build upon as their country overcomes more than 35 years of neglect.

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